

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

To provide a mechanical optical switch including a movable optical fiber which can be elastically deformed and a fixed optical fiber, open ends of the movable optical fiber and the fixed optical fiber facing each other via an optical gap, which switches an optical path by moving the open end of the movable optical fiber relatively to the open end of the fixed optical fiber with an electromagnetic actuator. The fixed optical fiber is held by a fixed holder at a point close to its open end. The movable optical fiber is supported by another fixed holder at a point distant from its open end, and a movable holder holding the movable optical fiber at a point close to its open end reciprocates relatively to the fixed holder holding the fixed optical fiber. An electromagnetic actuator is located in an area on the movable optical fiber side from the open end of the movable optical fiber. Preferably, it is provided between the open end of the movable optical fiber and the latter fixed holder. Thus, downsizing of the optical switch can be realized.